

REMARKS

This is a response to the Final Office Action mailed on July 3, 2008.

The Office Action indicates that claims 12 and 24 contain allowable subject matter, and claims 18-20 and 31-34 are allowed.

Claims 1, 3, 4, 9-11, 13-17, 22, 23, 28 and 29 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C §103(a) as being unpatentable over US 2004/0047313 to Rumpf et al. (Rumpf) in view of US 2007/0117592 to Bauman.

Claim 2 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C §103(a) as being unpatentable over Rumpf in view of Bauman, and in further view of US 2003/0118280 to Miyazaki.

Claims 5 and 6 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C §103(a) as being unpatentable over Rumpf in view of Bauman and further in view of US 5,664,035 to Tsuji.

Claims 25-27 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C §103(a) as being unpatentable over Rumpf in view of Bauman and further in view of Banwell et al. ("Powering The Fiber Loop Optically-A Cost Analysis").

To expedite allowance of the application, and without conceding to the propriety of the rejections, claim 1 is amended to include the subject matter of claims 10 and 12, and new claim 35 is presented which incorporates the subject matter of claims 1, 10 and 24. Claims 7, 8, 10, 12, 14-17, 21, 24 and 30 are cancelled. Claims 9, 11 and 25 are amended for consistency with claim 1. No new matter is entered.

In view of the above, each of the pending claims is believed to be in condition for immediate allowance. The Examiner is therefore requested to pass this application on to an early issue. Should further questions remain, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney by telephone.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 501826 for any matter in connection with this response, including any fee for extension of time, which may be required.

Respectfully submitted,

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